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Imagery analysis report

Summary of Soviet Reaction To the Polish Situation

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SUMMARY OF SOVIET REACTION TO THE POLISH SITUATION

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1. (S/D) No indications suggesting an immediate intervention into Poland by Soviet forces in the western USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, or [] (Figure 1) were seen during the reporting period. However, one of four divisions of the key 11th Guards Army (GA)* in the Baltic Military District (MD), where extensive field training has been observed since early September, still remained in the field. The 40th Guards Tank Division (GTD) has remained in continuous field training for almost 50 days. Imagery of [] revealed that the 1st GTD was returning to the garrison at Kornevo (Figure 2). This meant that at least three of the four 11th GA divisions were involved in field training in early October. Also on [] elements of the 1st Guards Motorized Rifle Division (GMRD) were seen returning to garrison in the Kaliningrad area after spending at least 30 days in the field.

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2. (S/D) The heightened state of readiness of mobile communications at Legnica and Rembertow had accelerated by [] when front-, army-, and division-level resources were deployed. In addition, mobile communications units were observed in convoy preparing to depart garrison at Legnica.

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3. (S/D) Critical units of the 28th Army in Belorussia and the 13th Army in Carpathia were not observed. [] two divisions of the 28th Corps in Czechoslovakia, and the two Soviet divisions in Poland were seen in garrison. No unusual activity was observed in these key units.

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4. (S/D) The cities of Elblag, Swietostow, Szczecin, Warsaw, and Krakow were observed on [] a proposed strike day, and no evidence of civil unrest was seen.

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BALTIC MILITARY DISTRICT

5. (S/D) Seventeen frames of imagery (15 usable and two cloud covered) were acquired over the Baltic MD. Three of eight combat maneuver divisions were at least partially imaged.

6. (S/D) Three divisions of the 11th Guards Army were imaged. The 40th Guards Tank Division (GTD) at Sovetsk and Gusev, out of garrison since at least [] was still bivouacked in local training areas through [] Major elements of the 1st GMRD at Kaliningrad, out of garrison since at least [] were back in garrison on [] Two tank regiments (TR) of the 1st GTD housed at Kornevo were imaged on [] and appeared to be returning from local field training. Both TRs were in garrison on [] The motorized rifle regiment (MRR) subordinate to the 1st GTD housed at Kaliningrad AL-4 [] was imaged on [] and also appeared to be returning from local field training. The MRR was in garrison on [] The 26th GMRD at Gusev was not observed on usable imagery.

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7. (S/D) The KGB/UPS signal unit at Bagrationovsk, elements of which were seen deployed near the installation on [] was out of garrison on []

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8. (S/D) The SA-4 brigade subordinate to the Baltic MD housed at Kaliningrad was seen returning to garrison on [] The SA-4 brigade was observed preparing to leave garrison on []

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9. (S/D) No unusual activity was observed at the Soviet/Polish border crossing point near Bagrationovsk on []

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BELORUSSIAN MILITARY DISTRICT

10. (S/D) Ten frames of imagery (six usable and four cloud covered) were acquired over Belorussia. Three of ten combat maneuver divisions were at least partially imaged.

11. (S/D) The 5th Guards Tank Army's (TA) 8th GTD at Marina Gorka and the 193rd Tank Division (TD) at Bobruysk were in garrison on [] respectively.

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CARPATHIAN MILITARY DISTRICT

12. (S/D) Seven frames of imagery (three usable and four cloud covered) were acquired over the Carpathian MD. Two of 12 combat maneuver divisions were at least partially imaged. No activity indicative of impending deployment was observed. However, exercise activity was continuing in the 8th TA and some unusual activity was observed in the 128th MRD of the 38th Army.

13. (S/D) Major elements of the 8th TA, 30th GTD at Novograd-Volyaskiy, were in garrison on [] The small tent and vehicle bivouacs observed in the training area since [] were essentially unchanged. Vehicles indentified in bivouac included armored personnel carriers (APCs), engineer equipment, and chemical equipment.

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*All numerical unit designators used in this report were acquired from reference document 1.

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14. (S/D) Major elements of the 38th Army, 128th MRD at Uzhgorod, were in garrison on []
 [] An increased activity level was observed in the MRB at Uzhgorod Army Barracks AL-I (BE
 [] Elements of two probable BTR-60/70 APC-equipped motorized rifle battalions were parked
 in open storage and additional equipment was seen exiting several vehicle storage sheds. The APCs have
 possibly been parked in open storage since [] when the MRR returned to garrison.

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NORTHERN GROUP OF FORCES—POLAND

15. (S/D) Twenty-six frames of imagery (16 usable and ten cloud covered) were acquired over Poland. Both Soviet combat maneuver divisions were at least partially imaged.

16. (S/D) In the Northern Group of Forces (NGF), elements of the Soviet tank division were in garrison at Bialogard on [] The 20th GTD was in garrison at Swietoszow and Pstraze on []
 [] No unusual activity was observed at either tank division.

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17. (S/D) The mobile satellite communications ground station operationally deployed at NGF headquarters in Legnica since [] was still present on [] In addition, a communications exercise was underway in a nearby training area. Equipment included four R-410 TWIN PLATE sets, three R-409 CATS PAW, and one R-400/404 radio relay set operationally deployed. Six R-410 TWIN PLATE sets in travel mode and 18 radio-associated van trucks were also observed. The two PARK DRIVE mobile satellite communications stations and the one R-410 TWIN PLATE set remained deployed within the KGB headquarters at Rembertow on [] One additional R-410 TWIN PLATE set was newly deployed since [] Although both R-410 sets were oriented northeast, the new set appeared to be oriented on a slightly different azimuth. The signal equipment associated with one of the PARK DRIVE was still covered with camouflage. Other related activity included elements of three R-410 sets on maintenance racks and five possible signal vans preparing to depart the installation. One deployed R-410 mast vehicle and two R-410 sets were also observed in a vehicle park at Rembertow. This equipment is not normally seen in this parking area.

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18. (S/D) In the Polish national forces, four of 15 combat maneuver divisions were at least partially imaged. The 12th Mechanized Infantry Division at Szczecin was on garrison on [] However, ten canvas-covered tanks were still parked in convoy just inside the southwest gate at Szczecin. One tank company remained in probable alert status in the same location. Ten probable tanks were observed in convoy in one of the vehicle parks of the 16th Armored Division at Elblag on [] The tanks were not present on [] Also at Elblag on [] elements of the Polish signal battalion subordinate to the 16th Armored Division were still absent. The equipment had been missing since []
 [] No unusual activity was observed in either the 5th Armored Division at Slubice on [] or the 9th Mechanized Division at Rzeszow on []

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CENTRAL GROUPS OF FORCES (CGF)—CZECHOSLOVAKIA

22. (S/D) Twenty-two frames of imagery (seven usable and 15 cloud covered) were acquired over Czechoslovakia. Two of five Soviet combat maneuver divisions were partially imaged. Both divisions are in the 28th Corps area.

23. (S/D) Major elements of the Soviet 15th TD at Milovice appeared to be normal on []
 [] The 31st TD at Bruntal appeared normal on []

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AIRBORNE

24. (S/D) Seven frames of imagery (three usable and four cloud covered) were acquired of Soviet (VDV) units. Two of the seven full-strength VDV divisions were partially imaged. No unusual activity was observed at the 7th Guards Airborne Division (GAD) at Kaunas, the 16th GAD at Tula, and the VDV

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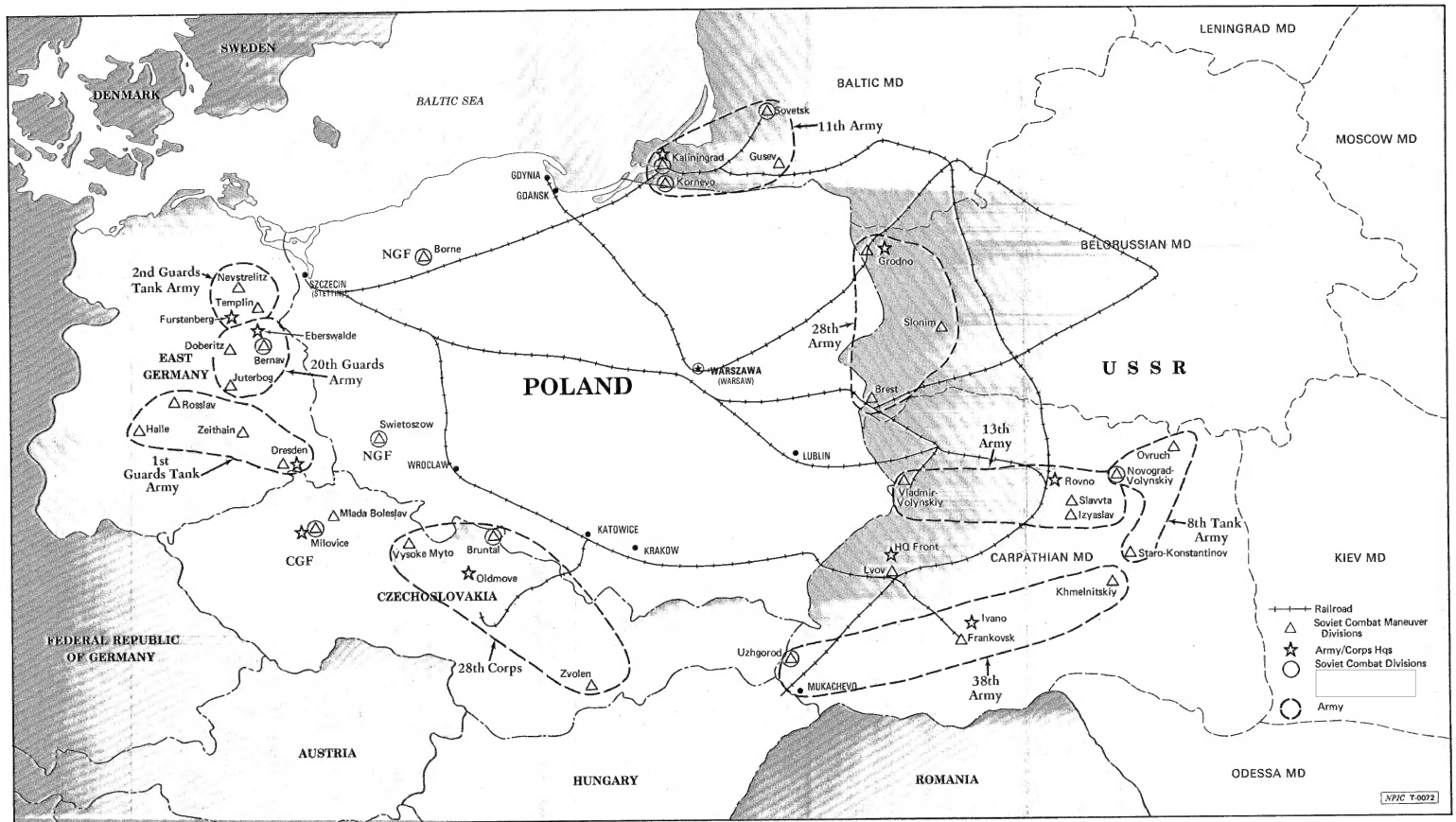


FIGURE 1. PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AND KEY UNITS IN WESTERN USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE

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command authority near Moscow. Only one VTA airborne-associated airfield was imaged during this reporting period. At Krechevitsy Airfield [] the CANDID aircraft count remained low with only 16 observed on []. Normally, 21 to 25 CANDID are seen at Krechevitsy. 25X1
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SOVIET AIR ACTIVITY
25. (S/D) Four frames of imagery (all usable) were acquired over four of the 17 key military airfields in Eastern Europe. Activity probable related to troop rotation was seen.
26. (S/D) On [] at Osla Airfield [] in Poland, six of the 13 FLOGGER aircraft present were on the refueling apron and seven were in tow. Eight probable air-to-air missile (AAM) dollies were being towed toward the parking/refueling apron. At least six large tents were set up along the tree line in the aircraft maintenance area. Two rows of equipment/troops were in front of the tents. 25X1
27. (S/D) On [] at Milovice Airfield [] in Czechoslovakia, one probable CRUSTY aircraft and two probable COOT aircraft were present. Those aircraft are not normally seen there. 25X1
28. (S/D) Continuing analysis has revealed that on [] two CARELESS aircraft (one on the runway) were present. Approximately 30 tents were also observed in the airfield support area. 25X1
29. (S/D) There was no VTA activity that could be confirmed as being connected with the Polish crisis. 25X1
(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPG. 25X1
DOCUMENT
1. DIA DDB-1100-UR-79, Ground Order-of-Battle (GOB)--USSR, Sep 79 (SECRET) [] 25X1

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